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March 13, 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

TO: Council Administrative Services

FROM: Council Chair Ernest Y. Martin

RE: 2015 NACo Legislative Conference
February 21 -25, 2015

Attached is my report from the 2015 NACo Legislative Conference. Serving as a member of the NACo Transportation Steering Committee, the majority of meetings I attended focused on transportation issues such as MAP-21 reauthorization, and transportation funding.

If you have questions regarding the foregoing, please do not hesitate to call me directly.

**2015 NACo Legislative Conference
February 21 – 25, 2015
Washington DC**

Saturday, February 21, 2015

- ❖ 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Transportation Steering Committee: Transit/Rail Subcommittee Meeting**
 - **Presentation on MAP-21 Reauthorization (Transit Policy)**
The nation's counties are involved with the ownership and/or operation of roughly a third of the country's public transportation systems. As a part of the nation's surface transportation system, public transportation policy and funding will be up for debate in the reauthorization of MAP-21. During this presentation, the subcommittee will hear from the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) about historical and emerging trends in public transportation, APTA's priorities for reauthorization and ways to effectively advocate for NACo's public transportation priorities.
 - Committee discussed resolutions on Equitable Funding and Expenditures of the Highway Trust Fund and on the Federal Freight Goods Movement Investment in the United States.

Sunday, February 22, 2015

- ❖ 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Transportation Steering Committee Meeting**
 - **Presentation on the Highway Trust Fund: Possible Solutions to the Impending Funding Crisis.** The Highway Trust Fund, which supports federal highway and transit programs, has experienced growing shortfalls since 2008. Rather than providing a solution to ensure the trust fund's long-term solvency, Congress has used short-term measures to keep the trust fund afloat. Without a long-term funding solution, it's unlikely that Congress will be able to pass a reauthorization of MAP-21. During this presentation, the committee heard from Ms. Kathy Ruffalo, a former staff member for the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee who was appointed to serve as a member of the National Surface Transportation Infrastructure Financing Commission, a commission created by Congress to make recommendations regarding alternative approaches to financing transportation infrastructure. Ms. Ruffalo covered what caused the funding crisis, the possible solutions considered by the commission and the commission's final recommendations.
 - In Fall 2014, the Transportation Steering Committee completed a survey on potential legislative priorities for 2015. The results of the survey identified the following four legislative items as priorities for the committee this year. These priorities serve as points of emphasis for the committee's work and help direct NACo's lobbying activities.
 - **MAP-21 Reauthorization and the Highway Trust Fund: Urge Congress to fix the Highway Trust Fund and pass a multi-year surface transportation authorization bill that provides long-term certainty and supports county surface transportation priorities.**

- **Transportation Infrastructure Financing:** Protect the tax free status of municipal bonds and support innovative financing mechanisms that allow counties to finance critical transportation infrastructure investments.
 - **Transportation Safety:** Support policies and regulations that help counties increase transportation safety across all modes.
 - **FAA Reauthorization:** Advocate for the passage of a FAA reauthorization bill that supports airport development and continues air service to large and small communities.
- ❖ 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. NACo Board of Directors Forum
- Reports and projects focused on mental health issues, jails, the Department of Homeland Security and updates on legislation moving through Congress.

Monday, February 23, 2015

- ❖ 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Opening General Session
- Vice-President Joe Biden spoke on President's Barack Obama's budget regarding public infrastructure and how it impacts the counties. He addressed the need to strengthen America's intellectual property to compete with other countries and to bring the United States back to the forefront.
- ❖ 10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Navigating the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- This workshop provided an overview of WIOA with a focus on specific bill provisions that impact county workforce system leaders and partners. During the session, county workforce leaders Orrin Bailey, CEO, Six County Employment Alliance, and Ron Painter, Executive Director, National Association of Workforce Boards provided insights for how the Act will be implemented on the local level, focusing on resources and information to assist counties with successful implementation of the Act.

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

- ❖ 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Meeting with FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan
- Met with Acting Administrator McMillan on the status of Honolulu's rail project and if changes can be made to the existing contract.
- ❖ 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Community Engagement and Outreach: Strategically Improving County Resilience
- Focusing on the need to engage residents, businesses and other community organizations in the resiliency planning process, this workshop explored effective methods for engaging the whole community, including vulnerable populations, in resiliency planning and communications efforts. It emphasized the importance for counties to successfully communicate critical information to the public prior to and during emergency events.

- ❖ 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. **Capital Finance: Improvements for Economic Development**
 - Annually, counties finance many capital projects and with the aging infrastructure and fewer federal resources available to the counties, the need to understand capital financing options is crucial. Experts in capital financing discussed the current state of the municipal bond markets, best practices for determining when to finance and what finance options are available. Case studies were provided and the panel discussion explored financing strategies.

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

- ❖ 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Meeting with U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono
- ❖ 12:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Meeting with U.S. Representative Mark Takai
- ❖ 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Meeting with U.S. Representative Tulsi Gabbard
- ❖ 12:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Meeting with U.S. Senator Brian Schatz
 - Met with Hawaii's Congressional Delegation to discuss their support of Honolulu's rail project and federal funding for county projects.

City Council
City and County of Honolulu

CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Date: 3-10-15

Traveler: Ernest Y Martin
Event: 2015 NACo Legislative Conference
Location: Washington DC
Dates: From February 21, 2015 To February 25, 2015

Description	Amount	Notes:
1. Registration Fee		
2. Airfare		
3. Hotel	1726.44 1669.44	5 nights at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel
4. Meals	220.45	Receipts attached
5. Ground Transportation	192.05 87.65	Receipts attached
6. Tips	32.00 9.50	Receipts attached
7. Other	25.00	Baggage
Other	105.00	Parking
Other		
8. Adjustment		
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT	2196.54 2137.04	

This is to certify that the above data, based upon receipts submitted to Council Administrative Support Services via a CCLTRVL02 form, is accurate. Further, I am claiming reimbursement for expenses associated with a trip in which City business was conducted and personal funds were used to advance payment.

Signature of Traveler

Date